

EC-10827. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the transmittal of the certification of the proposed issuance of an export license relative to Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-10828. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the St. Louis, MO, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions" (RIN3206-AJ24) received on September 15, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10829. A communication from the Director of the National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the inventory of commercial activities; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-10830. A communication from the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Simplification of Certain Requirements in Patent Interface Practice" (RIN0651-AB15) received on September 15, 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-10831. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to the October 2000 Term of the Court; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations: Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2001" (Rept. No. 106-414).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2647: A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act relating to the water rights of the Ak-Chin Indian Community" to clarify certain provisions concerning the leasing of such water rights, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-415).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3064. A bill to provide for the reliquidation of certain entries of vacuum cleaners; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MILLER:

S. 3065. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the Hope Scholarship Credit for expenses of individuals receiving certain State scholarships; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 3066. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require criminal background checks for nursing facility workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. REID):

S. 3067. A bill to require changes in the bloodborne pathogens standard in effect under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. REID, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3068. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to remove certain limitations on the eligibility of aliens residing in the United States to obtain lawful permanent resident status; read the first time.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 3069. A bill to amend the Television Program Improvement Act of 1990 to restore the applicability of that Act to agreements relating to voluntary guidelines governing telecast material and to revise the agreements on guidelines covered by that Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 3070. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal penalties for distribution of defective products, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, and discovery information in civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERREY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. SCHUMER) (by request):

S. 3071. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 3072. A bill to assist in the enhancement of the development of expansion of international economic assistance programs that utilize cooperatives and credit unions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 3073. A bill to amend titles V, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to promote smoking cessation under the medicare program, the medicaid program, and the maternal and child health program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire):

S.J. Res. 52. A joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Con. Res. 136. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of bringing transparency, accountability, and effectiveness to the World Bank and its programs and projects; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. Con. Res. 137. Concurrent Resolution recognizing, appreciating, and remembering with dignity and respect the Native American men and women who have served the United States in military service; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 3066. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require criminal background checks for nursing facility workers; to the Committee on Finance.

THE SENIOR CARE SAFETY ACT OF 2000

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Senior Care Safety Act of 2000. This bill prohibits nursing homes and other long-term care facilities operating under the Social Security and Medicaid systems from employing individuals with a demonstrated history of violent, criminal behavior or drug dealing. To that end, it requires these nursing facilities to conduct criminal background checks on all of their prospective employees as part of the hiring process. Nursing facilities that fail to conduct a background check prior to hiring an employee are subject to a civil fine of up to \$5,000. The reason for these requirements is simple: we must ensure that our most defenseless senior Americans—those in need of long-term nursing care—are attended not by people with a demonstrated history of violent, criminal behavior, but by the most qualified and trustworthy individuals available.

The Senior Care Safety Act provides nursing facilities with the tools necessary to accomplish this objective. It requires the Department of Justice to open federal databases of criminal background information to nursing homes so that they can promptly determine if prospective employees have a criminal record. The act provides that the Department of Justice provide this information without charge to the facility or the applicant. Furthermore, it ensures that those who comply with the background check requirement are insulated from liability for refusing to hire someone prohibited from working in a nursing facility by this provision. Finally, it guarantees the privacy of those individuals who are denied such employment due to a criminal record by prohibiting the use by a nursing facility of an individual's background information for any purpose other than complying with this act.

It is tragic that a bill like this is necessary. But, while the overwhelming majority of those who care for the more than 40,000 senior citizens receiving 24-hour care in my home state of Missouri, and the more than 1.5 million of such seniors nationwide are dedicated and caring individuals, there are unfortunately too many examples of those who take advantage of this position of trust. There are far too many stories of convicted violent felons who have slipped through the cracks in the hiring process and have physically or mentally abused our frailest citizens in the very institutions that their families have entrusted them for care. This bill will play an important role in ensuring that when a family entrusts